

Remarks

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 16, 18-21, and 23 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 12 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-11, 14-16, 18-21, and 23 are pending in the present application.

Claims 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 5,933,676 to Ohno. Claims 14 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Ohno in view of Japanese Patent No. 11143151 A to Nakahara et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending claim 12. Claim 11 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the Office Action that claim 12 was allowable. Allowance of claim 11 is requested.


The claims which depend from independent claim 11 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,
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Amendment B

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